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US NAVAL AIR FACILITY - SMALL BUT ACTIVE

The U.S. Naval Air Facility, Monterey, California, recently celebrated its 21st birthday. The U.S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station, commissioned on May 24, 1943, has grown by leaps and bounds in its brief history. The number of personnel, planes and the number of various activities have increased to the point where they are not only an important air facility but also an outstanding one. CAPT W. E. Craven, Jr., is presently the commanding officer; he is scheduled to be relieved this month by CAPT M. W. Munk.

At the present time there are 27 Officers, 440 enlisted personnel and 17 civilian employees aboard the Air Facility as compared with 12 Officers and 101 enlisted men in 1947.

At the present time there are 44 aircraft aboard the Naval Air Facility for the purpose of maintaining the proficiency of the pilots attending the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. There are 16 T2As (jets), 14 T28s (propeller planes), 16 TC45Js (Beachcraft) and 1 helicopter (CH196).

No matter how small the base be, the men stationed here in the past and presently have helped to make the U.S. Naval Air Facility, Monterey, one of the outstanding bases in the U.S.

The U.S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Monterey, California, was officially commissioned on May 24, 1943. At that time, the station had as its mission the administering, operation, maintenance and training of Fleet Units and personnel. This was accomplished by establishing increased repair facilities which changed the station from Class "D" to Class "C," providing a Torpedo Unit aboard the station for the purpose of conditioning and reclaiming torpedoes dropped in the torpedo range. In November 1944, a ground training unit was established for the training of aircrewmembers and pilots. The mission was carried out until October 1945, when the station was ordered disestablished. On November 1, 1945, the station was put in a caretaker status and remained so until it was reactivated in November 1947. The mission then changed to that of providing aircraft and air facilities to maintain flight proficiency of aviators attached to the U.S. Naval School (General Line), Monterey, California.

In August 1954, the Naval Air Intercept Training Facility, Point Pinos, was made operational under the administrative control of the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Facility, Monterey, and coordination control of Commander, Naval Air Bases, Twelfth Naval District.

In July 1956, the current mission of the



Being fueled for a flight is one of the jet aircraft at the U.S. Navy Air Facility.
U.S. Navy Photo

Naval Air Facility was received. This mission is "to maintain and operate facilities and provide services and material to support the aviation requirements of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, and to support operations of those activities and units designated by the Chief of Naval Operations."

The Naval Intercept Training Facility, Point Pinos, terminated air operations on November 10, 1961, in accordance with Twelfth Naval District directives. Preservation of equipment was conducted and Point Pinos was placed into inactive status early in 1962 by Chief of Naval Operations.

The Naval Air Facility today has many missions in addition to its primary mission

of U.S. Naval Postgraduate School support.

To promote physical fitness, varsity basketball, softball and bowling teams have been organized and compete in the Monterey Leagues. Intramural teams have been set up among the various divisions aboard which participate in softball, bowling, basketball, football, etc.

Approximately 3,000 volumes are contained in the base library, which is open to all-hands. A stereophonic outfit with earphones has been installed in the library also. Records are provided or personal records may be brought to the library and played. The library is open 0800-1130, 1300-1630 and 1830-2200 except during movies.

The U.S. Naval Air Facility is under the military command of the Commander, U.S. Naval Air Bases, Twelfth Naval District, and under the management control of the Chief, Bureau of Weapons.



The Naval Air Facility has a helicopter for the use of helicopter pilots in the area to maintain their proficiency.
U.S. Navy Photo

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